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Fight against inflation will be prolonged: RBI

The fight against inflation will be dogged and prolonged due to the long and variable lags with which monetary policy operates, an RBI article said. "Yet, if we succeed, we will entrench India's prospects as one of the fastest growing economies of the world enjoying a negative inflation differential with the rest of the world," according to the article on the state of economy authored by a team led by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra | P13

Rahul casts his vote in Ballari

While Congress leader Rahul Gandhi cast his vote at Sanganakallu near Ballari, party leader Mallikarjun Kharge voted in Bengaluru

Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi casts her vote for the party's presidential election at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Monday | PARVEEN NEGI

CBI grills Sisodia for over 9 hours

After questioning, he claims he was pressured to quit AAP; probe agency rubbishes charge

AMIT MUKHERJEE @ New Delhi

AAP leader and Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was on Monday questioned by the CBI for over nine hours at its headquarters here in connection with the excise policy scam. Sisodia arrived at 11.15 am and left around 9 pm.

This newspaper was the first to break the report about the scam-tainted new liquor policy in Delhi, which Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was subsequently forced to shelve.

After the questioning, Sisodia claimed he was pressured to quit the AAP and offered the Delhi chief minister's post if he was ready to comply; else he would be jailed.

Soon thereafter, the CBI put out a statement rubbishing Sisodia's charges, adding questioning was done in a proper and legal way. It said his statement during questioning would be verified before further action is taken.

According to sources, Sisodia was questioned on the framing of the policy and his association with various persons whose names have cropped up during the investigation. The CBI also had questions based on the revelations of two arrested persons — Abhishek Boinpally, a Hyderabad-based businessman and Vijay Nair, the ex-CEO of Only Much Louder (OML), an event management company.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia briefs the media in New Delhi on Monday | EXPRESS

Sources said that CBI began with a narration of the scam, describing how various irregularities in the excise policy caused losses to the state exchequer and how private parties benefited from it. The policy was enforced with Sisodia's approval in November last.

He was confronted with documents, statements of the accused and bank transaction details that were seized by the CBI during raids in August and the subsequent investigations.

The CBI also had questions for Sisodia on the statements of Nair, who is with AAP. Nair, it said, was instrumental in influencing the excise policy.

Chandrachud appointed CJI, to serve till '24

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu on Monday appointed Justice D Y Chandrachud as the 50th Chief Justice of India with effect from November 9, 2022. He will have a tenure of two years and will demit office on November 10, 2024.

The law ministry had on October 30 initiated the drill to appoint the next CJI by writing to the incumbent, Justice U U Lalit, requesting him to recommend his successor's name. Following this, Justice Lalit sent his recommendation to the Centre on October 10, naming Justice Chandrachud as his successor.

Justice Chandrachud

Justice Chandrachud is the son of Y V Chandrachud, who was the CJI between 1978 and 1985. His appointment will also mark the first instance of a father-son duo reaching the topmost position in the Supreme Court's seven-decade history.

Justice Chandrachud has been part of several Constitution benches and has penned landmark verdicts, including those in the vexed Ayodhya land title dispute.

96% turnout in Cong presidential elections

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AFTER a long gap of 24 years, the Congress on Monday held an internal election to choose a non-Gandhi family member as party chief. The contest between veteran leader Mallikarjun Kharge and Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor saw 96% turnout among the delegates. The winner will succeed Sonia Gandhi as party chief. The election comes three years after Rahul Gandhi resigned from the top post taking responsibility for the 2019 Lok Sabha poll debacle.

While Kharge and Tharoor cast votes in their home states, those who turned up in AICC headquarters include former PM Manmohan Singh, P Chidambaram, and Sonia Gandhi along with Priyanka Gandhi. After casting her vote, Sonia Gandhi said that she has been waiting for the elections for a long time.

The party's central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry said the Congress has set a model for other parties by holding an open and transparent election. "Election was done through a secret ballot. Ballots will be counted by mixing and there is no way to find out which PCCs voted for whom," he said, adding 50 delegates including Rahul voted at the booths at Bharat Jodo Yatra camp.

Though the Gandhis have claimed they were neutral, Kharge is widely seen as the 'official candidate' endorsed by the high command. While Tharoor focused on decentralisation and reforms, Kharge promised to follow the Udaipur 'Chitnan Shivir', in their frenetic campaigns to reach out to the 9,900- strong electorate.

However, there were question marks over the fairness of the polls with Tharoor approaching the election authority over the 'deferential treatment' by senior leaders in several states and discrepancies in the electoral rolls.

3-year-old falls into open drain, washed away

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AN uncovered drain claimed the life of a three-year-old boy, Kabir, in Varthur late Sunday afternoon when he was playing with a friend in the rain and fell into the rajakaluve which was not fenced. Kabir's fate is not known and search operations were under way.

The police said the incident occurred around 4.30 pm. The victim's friend, a neighbour, who was with him, ran towards the shed where Kabir's parents Vinod and Sapna are staying, and informed them about the incident. P2

Man who built 17 ponds in Mandya bids adieu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

OCTOGENARIAN Kalmane Kamegowda, popularly known as Kere Kamegowda or Pond Man, who single-handedly built more than 17 ponds in the barren hills of Kundinibetta near his village Dasanadoddi at Malavalli taluk in Mandya District, died due to age-related ailments at his house on Monday.

The 84-year-old Kamegowda shot to fame after Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his monthly 66th edition of 'Mann Ki Baat' on All India Radio lauded his efforts and called him 'Water Warrior' on June 28, 2020.

A file photo of Kalmane Kamegowda near a pond built by him

He was also conferred the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award in November 2018.

Kamegowda was nicknamed 'Adhunika Bhagiratha' by local villagers for his tireless efforts in digging 17 ponds over the last 40 years.

He also planted more than 2,000 trees. CONTINUED ON: P5

EXPRESS READ

Buddhist population in K'taka falls drastically

Bengaluru: In just a decade, the population of Buddhists in Karnataka has fallen drastically from 4 lakh in the 2001 census to 75,000 in the 2011 census. P4

Pothole mishap: Bus runs over woman's leg

Bengaluru: A woman pillion rider sustained injuries when a bus ran over her leg after her daughter, riding the two-wheeler, fell while trying to negotiate a pothole. P2

UK CRISIS

NEW FINMIN REVERSES TRUSS' TAX CUTS

Jeremy Hunt scaled back the expensive energy bills support in an emergency fiscal statement to reassure the jittery financial markets | P12

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